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11 September 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

South Vietnam: Open agitation against the Diem regime is now being carried on mainly by student elements.

Vietnamese officials have admitted privately that while overt opposition by the Buddhists seems to have been quelled, the student problem remains extremely sensitive. Military occupation of several high schools in Saigon and detention of more than 1,000 pupils over the past few days will deepen urban hostility toward the government.

The government's charge that Communist agents are responsible for the student disturbances has not been substantiated.

(The French ambassador in Saigon suspects that the Communists have organized the demonstrations even though the students are not Communist. He is impressed by the fact that children and women are being organized in such a way as to make it difficult for the government to cope with the demonstrations.)

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Egypt-Yemen: (Federation of Egypt and Yemen may be announced on 26 September, the anniversary of the Yemeni revolution, [redacted])

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[redacted] Nasir has decided that federation is the only practical solution to the Yemeni problem. Nasir reportedly is convinced that this move would justify the continued presence of Egyptian troops in Yemen and avert the collapse of the republican regime which would occur if they withdraw.)

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(Nasir has repeatedly denied any intention to join Yemen and Egypt, which were once linked in the ephemeral United Arab States. He has maintained that such a union would be burdensome and unpopular in Egypt.)

(At the same time, however, Nasir has made clear his determination to keep the republican government alive at all costs. He now may be convinced that only a virtual Egyptian take-over, implying an abandonment of disengagement, can save the revolutionary regime and ease US and UN pressure on him.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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Chile-France: Chile has suspended trade relations with France to protest De Gaulle's decision to conduct nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

This action follows a recent French demarche complaining about Chile's hostility to the tests, which Paris feels discriminates against France. Chile has long been alarmed over nuclear fallout in the Southern Hemisphere, and fears that fallout will increase if the French persist in their Pacific test plans.

Immediately affected by the Chilean action is the recently announced \$12-million purchase of three Caravelle jet transports for the national airline. The French share of Chile's imports rose from 2.4 percent in 1961 to 4.5 percent in 1962, while Chilean exports to France held constant at about 2 percent.

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NOTE

Congo: Former Katangan gendarmes, possibly accompanied by white mercenaries, are regrouping in an area southeast of Elisabethville, according to several sources including the Northern Rhodesian Government. The former gendarmes, said to number some 4,000, apparently believe that when they reach 10,000 they will be "instructed" to attack two nearby Katangan towns. The UN has been informed, but it is doubtful that its forces, which are preoccupied by withdrawal problems, will move to deal with this group before it creates trouble. 25X1

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